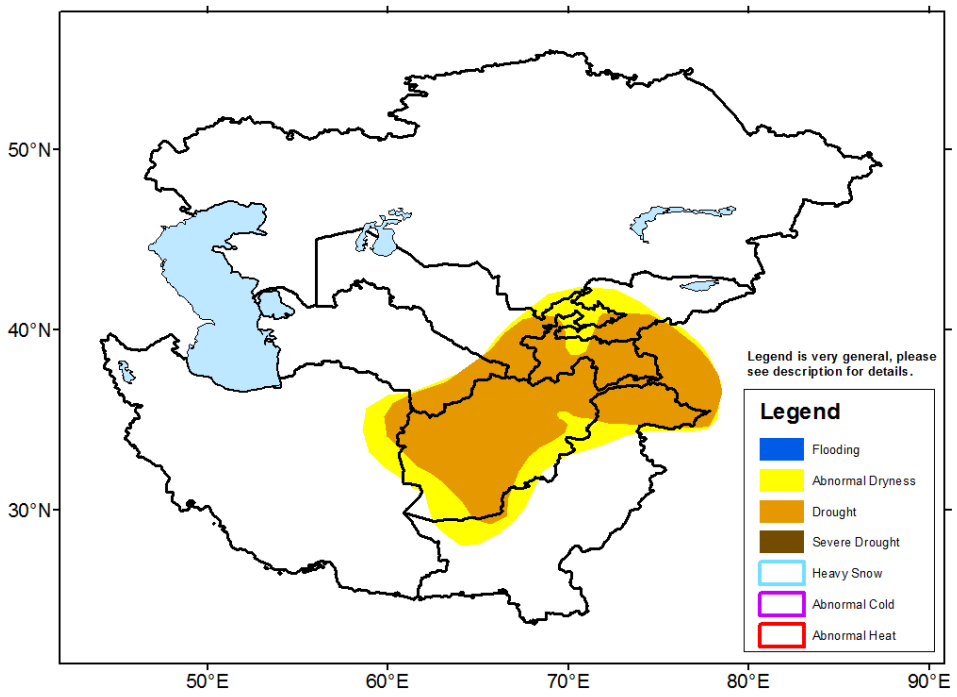
Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
March 15 - 21, 2018

Temperatures:

During the second week of March, mean temperatures remained above normal over a wide area of Central Asia. Northern and western Kazakhstan were the exception, averaging near-normal high temperatures. The largest warm anomalies were observed over southeastern Kazakhstan, southern Uzbekistan, eastern Turkmenistan, and northern Afghanistan, where positive departures from climatology exceeded 8 degrees Celsius. During the next week, above normal temperatures are expected to continue in the central portions of Central Asia. High temperatures could peak at 8-15 degrees Celsius above average.

Precipitation

Scattered light to moderate (5-25mm) precipitation fell throughout Kazakhstan during the last 7 days. Moderate and locally heavy snows (25+mm liquid equivalent) fell over parts of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and eastern Uzbekistan. Meanwhile, scattered moderate precipitation was observed in northern portions of both Afghanistan and Pakistan. A few areas saw slight improvement; however, very low snow water equivalent and large ninety-day precipitation deficits persist over the dry portions of Central Asia. A drought hazard is posted over much of Afghanistan and portions of adjacent countries as the ongoing, large moisture deficits are likely to negatively impact crops over the coming months. During the next week, scattered light precipitation should be prevalent through the region. The GFS model forecasts more substantial precipitation (25+mm of liquid) in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and northern Pakistan.



Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.